



# UTILITY DISRUPTION

Utility Disruptions can involve gas lines, water lines, wastewater systems, or electrical infrastructure. The area affected by a Utility Disruption can range from one block to dozens of square miles. It is rare to have any advanced warning of a Utility Disruption, although disruptions may be anticipated prior to extreme weather events. A Utility Disruption can occur nearly anywhere utility infrastructure exists. Utility Disruptions can be intentional, unintentional, or occur as a cascading effect of another hazard.



### HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There have been 16 notable Utility Disruption events in Howard County during the reviewed time period (2008-2019). The majority of Utility Disruptions in Howard County have been the result of extreme weather such as Hurricane Sandy and the 2018 Wind Storm.

### WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

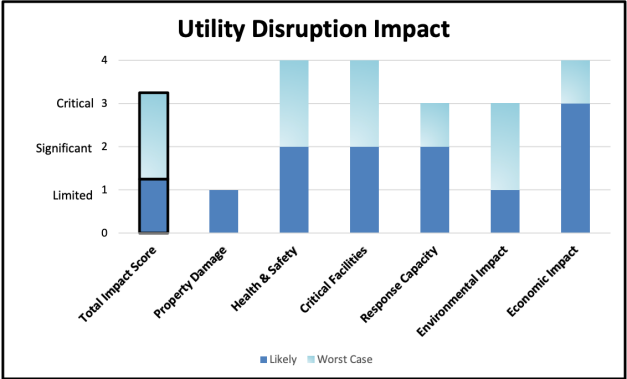
There is an expected 11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Utility Disruption in Howard County. In the most likely Utility Disruption scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Critical-Catastrophic.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- During Hurricane Sandy, a power outage at a water treatment plant resulted in the release of wastewater, threatening the health and environment downstream.
- Over 1 million Maryland residents lost power in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel in 2003.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)



Utility Disruption Risk Profile				
	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	3.37 Likely- Very Likely		50%
	Impact	1.2 Limited-Significant	3.2 Critical-Catastrophic	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	3 Long	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.5	3.3	

